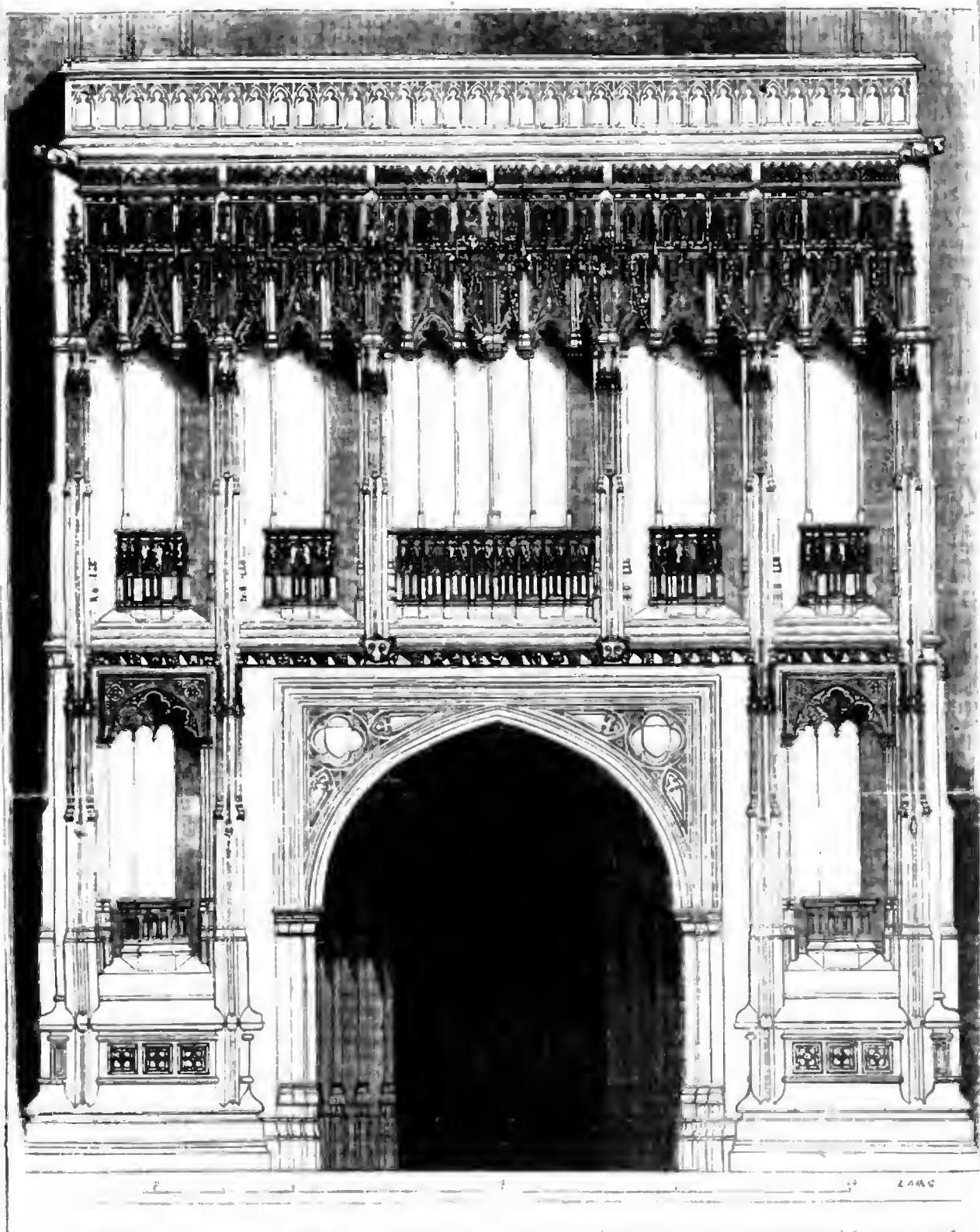


THE PORCH, CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL.



the most beautiful compositions to be found in any English edifice.

We do not recollect any cathedral porch of pure decorated work remaining, (perhaps the nearest to it is that on the north side of the nave at Exeter); but of the perpendicular style so many are to be found, that it is no easy matter to point out the best examples. Perhaps the three most deserving of special notice are those of Gloucester, Beverley, and Canterbury. At Gloucester, it is situated on the south side of the nave, and consists of an entrance, with a large niche on each side of it; over this lower stage are six niches, with rich canopies

of beautiful outline. The porch is finished by a pierced battlement of very good design. The buttresses on either side are covered with panelling and niches. This porch has fallen very much to decay, and it is only by the most attentive examination, that much of its detail can be made out.

The north porch at Beverley has a panelled front, perhaps unequalled. The door has a double canopy, the inner anogee, and the outer a triangle, with beautiful crockets and tracery, and is flanked by five buttresses breaking into niches, and the space above the canopy to the cornice is panelled. The battlement is com-

posed of rich niches, and the buttresses crowned by a group of four pinnacles.

The porch on the south side of the nave at Canterbury (which forms the subject of the illustration), bears some resemblance in its general design to that of Gloucester; the outline is perhaps not so good, but it is more richly ornamented. It was built by Archbishop Chicheley about the year 1420. The roof is vaulted with stone, and at the intersection of the ribs are shields of arms; in the centre the arms of France and England quartered; over this roof is a small room entered from the nave. Hasted states that four of the